

**State of Board of Health
September 3 2020 – 9:00 a.m.
Virtual Meeting – WebEx**

Due to COVID-19, this meeting was conducted in an all-virtual environment.

Members Present: Faye Prichard, Chair; Gary Critzer, Tommy East; James Edmondson; Elizabeth Harrison; Linda Hines, RN; Anna Jeng, ScD; Patricia Kinser, PhD; Wendy Klein, MD; Benita Miller, DDS; Holly Puritz, MD; Jim Shuler, DVM; Stacey Swartz, PharmD; Katherine Waddell; and Mary Margaret Whipple.

VDH Staff Present: Dr. Norm Oliver, State Health Commissioner; Dr. Laurie Forlano, Deputy Commissioner for Population Health; Joe Hilbert, Deputy Commissioner for Governmental and Regulatory Affairs; Mylam Ly, Policy Analyst; Dr. Parham Jaber, Chief Deputy Commissioner for Public Health and Preparedness; Alex Jansson, Policy Analyst; Mike McMahon, Acting Deputy Commissioner for Administration; Maria Reppas, Director of the Office of Communications; John Ringer, Director of Public Health Planning and Evaluation; Stephanie Gilliam, Deputy Director for Budget; Tammie Smith, Public Relations Coordinator; Richard Watson, Video Conference Engineer; Brad Bradley, Public Health Preparedness Systems Manager

Other Staff: Robin Kurz, Senior Assistant Attorney General

Call to Order

Ms. Prichard called the meeting to order at 9:27am.

Introductions

Ms. Prichard welcomed those in attendance to the meeting. Ms. Prichard then started the introductions of the Board members and VDH staff present.

Review of Agenda

Mr. Hilbert reviewed the agenda and the items contained in the Board's binder.

Approval of June 4, 2020 Minutes

Dr. Kinser made the motion to approve the minutes from the June 4, 2020 meeting with Dr. Klein seconding the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Presentation from Polly Raible

The agenda was amended to have a presentation from Polly Raible of the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association (VHHA). Ms. Raible discussed Unite Virginia, a partnership between VDH and VHHA to develop a e-referral system to increase care coordination and reduce gaps in health care services outside of a clinical setting.

There were multiple statements of support as well as questions about how this would be implemented across Virginia.

Commissioner's Report

Dr. Oliver provided the Commissioner's Report to the Board. He discussed the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) situation and response:

- Current status of COVID-19 in Virginia
- Testing
- Contact Tracing
- Supporting Long-Term Care Facilities and Other Settings
- Enforcement of Executive Orders
- Vaccination Planning Update

There was discussion concerning when a vaccine would be available and plans for distribution, types of testing that are available and how they can be best utilized to assist in school reopenings, the overlap of COVID-19 and the flu season, data transparency and dashboard development, and guidance for exposures and testing for the general public if they feel they have been exposed.

Regulatory Action Update

Mr. Hilbert reviewed the summary of all pending VDH regulatory actions. Since the June 2020 meeting the Commissioner has approved the four following regulatory actions on behalf of the Board while the Board was not in session:

- Rainwater Harvesting Systems Regulations (12VAC5-635) – Approved NOIRA
- Sexual Assault Survivor Treatment and Transfer Regulation (12 VAC5-416) - Approved NOIRA
- Certification of Doulas (12VAC5-403) – Approved NOIRA
- Regulations for Disease Control Reporting and Control (12VAC5-90) – Approved Emergency Amendments/NOIRA

Mr. Hilbert advised the Board that there are 13 periodic reviews in progress:

- Virginia Emergency Medical Services Regulations (12VAC5-66)
- Regulations for the Repacking of Crabmeat (12VAC5-165)
- Regulations Governing Eligibility Standards and Charges for Medical Services to Individuals (12VAC5-200)
- Methodology to Measure Efficiency and Productivity of Health Care Institutions (12VAC5-216)
- Regulations of the Patient Level Data System (12VAC5-217)
- Rules and Regulations Governing Outpatient Data Reporting (12VAC5-218)
- Virginia Medical Care Facilities Certificate of Public Need Rules and Regulations (12VAC5-220)
- Regulations for the Submission of Health Maintenance Organization Quality of Care Performance Information (12VAC5-407)
- Certificate of Quality Assurance of Managed Care Health Insurance Plan Licensees (12VAC5-408)
- Regulations for the Licensure of Hospitals in Virginia (12VAC5-410)
- Regulations Governing the Virginia Physician Loan Repayment Program (12VAC5-508)
- Guidelines for Virginia General Assembly Nursing Scholarships (12VAC5-510)
- Regulations for Identification of Medically Underserved Areas in Virginia (12VAC5-540)

There was a discussion related to the timelines of regulation development and funding for implementation.

Public Comment Period

Following a short break, there was one public speaker who had signed up, but was not present at the meeting. There were no public comments.

Legislative Update

Mr. Hilbert presented the legislative update from the 2020 General Assembly Special Session. He highlighted bills that would have an impact on VDH's work. Subject areas included the following:

- Board and Commissioner's Emergency Rulemaking Authority
- Outbreak/Communicable Disease Data Reporting
- Testing
- Immunization and treatment of COVID-19
- Patient Visitation Policies
- Civil Liability Immunity
- Racism as a Public Health Threat

There was discussion around multiple bills including the inclusion of dental care workers in prioritization and civil liability bills, the procedure for emergency meetings, how best Board members can advocate, and hydroxychloroquine.

Budget Update

Ms. Gilliam presented the budget update from the 2020 General Assembly Special Session. She pointed out that the funding that was unallotted in April 2020 is now permanently revoked. She stated that we are resubmitting for some of the funding in the 2021 session and also waiting to see the outcome of the Special Session budget.

Board of Health Public Policy Subcommittee Recommendations

Mr. Hilbert described the Public Policy subcommittee established by the Board at the June 4, 2020 meeting. The subcommittee met twice, and in consultation with VDH staff, developed a letter and list of recommended policy actions to the Governor's staff.

There was discussion regarding prioritizing the top five recommendations, as well as how the Board could be effective advocates and engage with their local legislators. Mr. Hilbert will revise the letter and recommendations for Ms. Prichard's approval and send on to the Governor.

2021 Board Meeting Schedule

Ms. Hines moved to approve the meeting dates for the 2021 calendar year. Dr. Jeng seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The dates of the 2021 meetings are as follows:

- Thursday March 18
- Thursday June 10
- Thursday September 2
- Friday December 10

Other Business

Dr. Jeng reported on the Hampton Roads Wastewater Surveillance Workgroup. She spoke about schools using wastewater surveillance to identify COVID-19 outbreaks in dorms. There was consensus to add a presentation from the Workgroup to the December 2020 agenda.

Mr. Edmonson reported a need to help restaurants identify and implement inexpensive air quality measures to increase customer comfort in coming back to dine-in. There are many restaurants in Northern Virginia who are failing financially due to the lack of in-person dining. He was approached with an idea to be researched and experimented with and is looking for how to support that through the work of the Board. Dr. Miller recommended utilizing loan programs for COVID-19 relief. The proposal will be forwarded to the Board for their consideration and recommendations.

Ms. Whipple expressed thanks to Ms. Raible for coming to present regarding Unite Virginia. Mr. Critzer expressed gratitude for the great working relationship with the Central Shenandoah Health District in his area.

Mr. Critzer also shared that the family of former chair Bruce Edwards, who died shortly before the meeting, also lost his daughter two weeks prior to the death. A memorial resolution will be created for the December 2020 meeting.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 2:10pm.

A full recording of the meeting can be found here: https://youtu.be/gw-Dv_38b64.